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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland  
SUBJECT Medical and Dental Care

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1. The working class in Poland is covered by health insurance. The office or factory employing the individual must assume the responsibility for covering the worker. Each worker is given an identity book which contains his photograph, name, place of employment, and sufficient space for the doctor to note the number of visits. One book is valid for the worker and three dependents, i.e. wife and two children. No provisions are made for larger families. The government knows that should a worker have more than three dependents it will be necessary for the wife to work and hence obtain her own book, which in turn would take care of any additional dependents.

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2. [redacted] it was officially reported that there was one doctor for every three thousand persons. [redacted] that is the figure given when people discuss such matters. In Warsaw for example, there was a doctor's office in approximately every block. Doctors keep regular office hours from 1500 hours until all patients are treated. From 0800 until 1400 doctors are required to work in hospitals. This rule applies to private doctors who still conduct private practices in their free time. Private doctors are usually not as busy as the state doctors, since people cannot afford private medical attention. Medicine prescribed by private physicians is extremely expensive. There is no charge for medicine prescribed by state doctors. The patient pays a very small fee for the container, this fee is relatively insignificant. Physicians do not make home calls unless the patient has a temperature of 39° Celsius.\* The private doctor will make home calls, however, this is an expensive service which few can afford. In addition to paying the doctor for the call, one must also pay for the medicine and the doctors cabfare.

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3. The larger factories have their own medical staffs on duty in first aid stations and in the dispensaries, however, these facilities are used by [redacted] Gesundheit/ [redacted]

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the workers only in case of serious injury or illness.

4. All government officials, their families, and high party members use the medical facilities at the Omega Hospital in Warsaw.
5. It is extremely difficult to be admitted to the hospital. In Warsaw the hospitals of the Transfiguration and the Child Jesus are always overcrowded. At one time the hospitals were staffed by Catholic nuns; the service then was excellent, but the nuns have since been replaced by poorly trained nurses.
6. Dentists in Poland are just as busy and overworked as the physicians. People must wait in line for hours which in many cases discourages people from having work done on their teeth unless they suffer from toothaches. It has been said that the quality of the work is very poor. I do not know whether this is a result of the poor quality of material for fillings etc, or whether it is the result of poorly trained or over-worked dentists.

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